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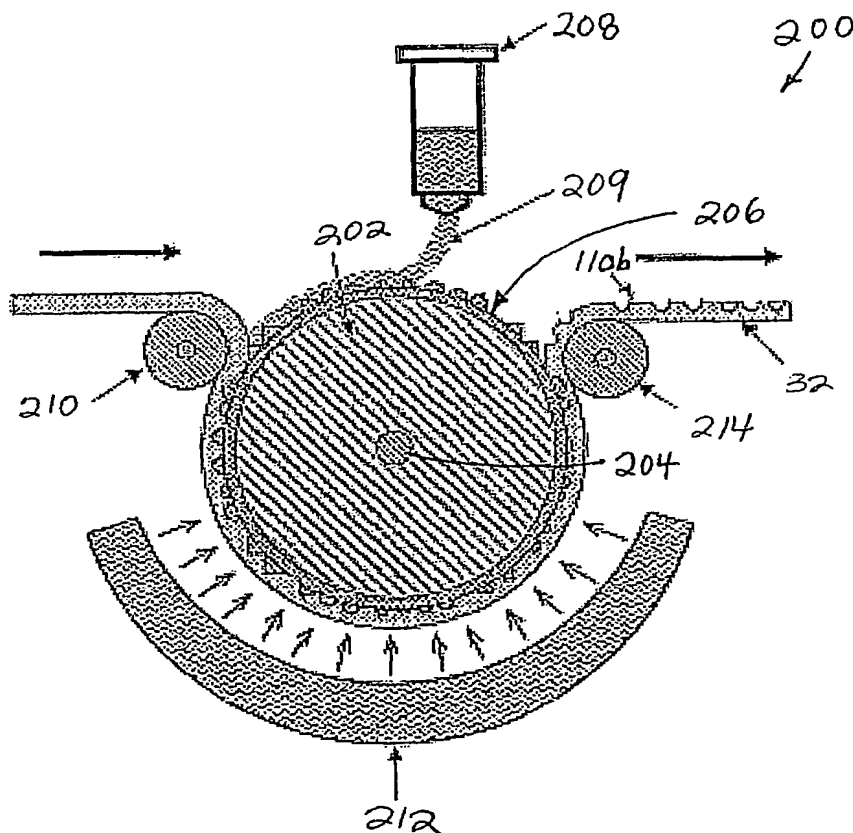
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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING PRE-FORMATTED LINEAR OPTICAL DATA STORAGE MEDIUM



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for manufacturing pre-formatted linear optical data storage media including an elongated linear polymer layer. The apparatus includes a drum mounted for rotation about a rotation axis, and the drum includes a circumferential outer surface having a predetermined pattern of protrusions for embossing at least one pattern of optically readable embossments in the elongated linear polymer layer as the layer is rolled on the drum. The apparatus also includes a thermal radiation source positioned adjacent the drum for heating the embossments of the elongated linear polymer layer prior to the layer being removed from the protrusions of the outer surface of the drum.

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